

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): An apparatus for removing a cork from inside a mouth of a bottle, said apparatus comprising:

at least one member for engaging the outside of the mouth of the bottle;

at least one handle connected to said at least one member and movable relative to said at least one member; and

a shaft operatively coupled with said at least one handle so that movement of said at least one handle rotates said shaft, said shaft including at least two helical spikes projecting from an end portion of said shaft and extending around a common longitudinal axis, said at least two helical spikes for embedding into the cork upon rotation of said shaft through movement of said at least one handle;

said at least two helical spikes, when embedded in the cork, being resistant to toggling in the cork and to being pulled axially from the cork which can cause the cork to break into multiple pieces.

2. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least two helical spikes comprise a pair of intertwined corkscrews.

3. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bottle has an oversized mouth and the cork is correspondingly oversized, said at least one member being adapted to mate with the oversized mouth of the bottle.

4. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of said at least two helical spikes has a proximal end and a distal end, each of said at least two helical spikes further including a tip portion at said distal end which penetrates into the cork as said shaft is rotated and a connecting portion at said proximal end that is connected to said shaft.

5. (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said tip portion of each of said at least two helical spikes has an elongated conical shape with a sharp pointed tip that penetrates into the cork as said shaft is rotated.

6. (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said tip portion of each of said at least two helical spikes has a self-penetrating terminal end that includes a planar surface for driving into the cork as said shaft is rotated.

7. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one member comprises a lever pivotally attached to said at least one handle.

8. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said shaft is pivotally attached to said at least one handle.

9. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one handle is rotated manually to cause said at least two helical spikes to rotate and embed into the cork.

10. (Original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein, after said at least two helical spikes have been embedded in the cork, the cork is removed by manually pulling axially on said at least one handle.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said shaft is rotated manually to cause said at least two helical spikes to rotate and embed into the cork.

12. (Original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said at least one handle comprises a pair of oppositely disposed handles pivotally mounted to said at least one member.

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein each of said pair of handles includes gear teeth that are in meshing engagement with rack teeth disposed on said shaft so that rotation of said pair of handles about their pivotal connection to said member causes axial movement of said shaft.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein, after said at least two helical spikes have been embedded in the cork, the cork is removed by manually rotating said pair of handles which pulls axially on said shaft.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a frame and a support member connected by an axially extending rod, said support member being movable relative to said frame, said shaft being mounted to and projecting from said support member.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said at least one member comprises a pair of clamping arms hingedly attached to said frame, said pair of arms defining an opening for receiving the mouth of the bottle and through which said at least two helical spikes project.

17. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein ~~said~~ at least one handle is pivotally mounted to said frame.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17 said at least one handle includes gear teeth that are in meshing engagement with rack teeth disposed on said support member so that rotation of said at least one handle about its pivotal connection to said frame causes axial movement of said shaft for embedding said at least two helical spikes into the cork.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein, after said at least two helical spikes have been embedded in the cork, the cork is removed by manually rotating said at least one handle relative to said frame which moves said support member and said shaft axially in an upward direction.

20. (Original): An apparatus for removing a cork from inside a mouth of a bottle, said apparatus comprising:

a manually rotatable handle; and

a shaft operatively coupled with said at least one handle so that movement of said at least one handle rotates said shaft, said shaft including at least two helical spikes projecting from an end portion of said shaft and extending around a common longitudinal axis, said at least two helical spikes for embedding into the cork upon rotation of said shaft through movement of said at least one handle;

said at least two helical spikes, when embedded in the cork, being resistant to toggling in the cork and to being pulled axially from the cork which can cause the cork to break into multiple pieces.

21. (Original): The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising at least one member for engaging the mouth of the bottle, said at least one handle being connected to said at least one member and being movable relative to said at least one member.